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Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the forty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of Parties, partner organizations, regional centres and networks, experts and communities of practice in implementation of activities under the Nairobi work programme, and highlights collaborative activities with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. It concludes with a brief overview of the mandated next steps.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).[1, 2]

B. Background

2. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its nineteenth session, decided to continue the NWP within the framework of the provisions of decision 2/CP.11, addressing the knowledge needs arising from, inter alia, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and other relevant workstreams and bodies under the Convention, and the knowledge needs identified by Parties.[3] COP 19 requested the SBSTA to consider, under the NWP, the issues of ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.[4]

3. In accordance with decision 17/CP.19, SBSTA 40 agreed on a set of activities to be undertaken under the NWP, by SBSTA 45, so that information and knowledge may be collected, analysed and disseminated to inform adaptation planning and actions at the regional, national and subnational levels, particularly in relation to, inter alia, ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.[5]

4. At COP 20, the COP President endorsed the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), an action pledge under the NWP,[6] as a component of a set of actions to further address adaptation to climate change under the Convention. As a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the secretariat, the initiative aims at prioritizing and catalysing responses to subregion- and theme-specific adaptation knowledge needs. SBSTA 41 encouraged the replication of this initiative in other subregions, particularly in vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and in Africa.

5. Relevant activities and deliverables for the period prior to SBSTA 45, as mandated at COP 19[7] and SBSTA 40 and 41,[8] are summarized in figure 1 below.

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[1] FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

[2] Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and 41 is contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.6, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.7 and FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.15.

[3] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 1.

[4] Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 5.

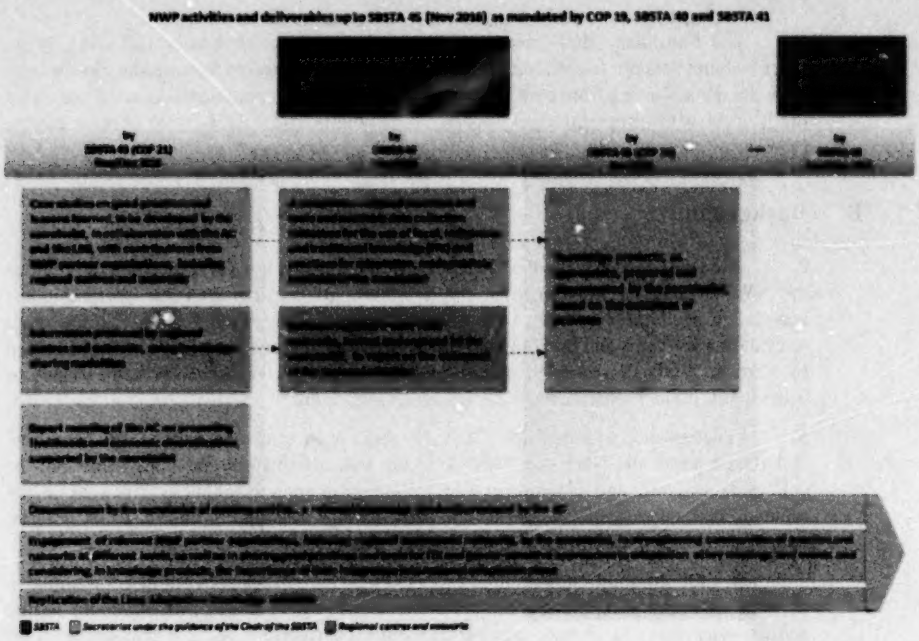
[5] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 19.

[6] Details of the action pledge are available at <https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461>.

[7] Decision 17/CP.19.

[8] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2 and FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5.

Figure 1
Nairobi work programme activities and deliverables up to the forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice[a]



Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, COP = Conference of the Parties, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

[a] As mandated at COP 19 (decision 17/CP.19) and SBSTA 40 and 41.

II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme

6. This chapter provides information on progress made during the reporting period in implementing the work programme with regard to engaging stakeholders, collaborating under the NWP and knowledge-sharing and management.

A. Engagement of partner organizations

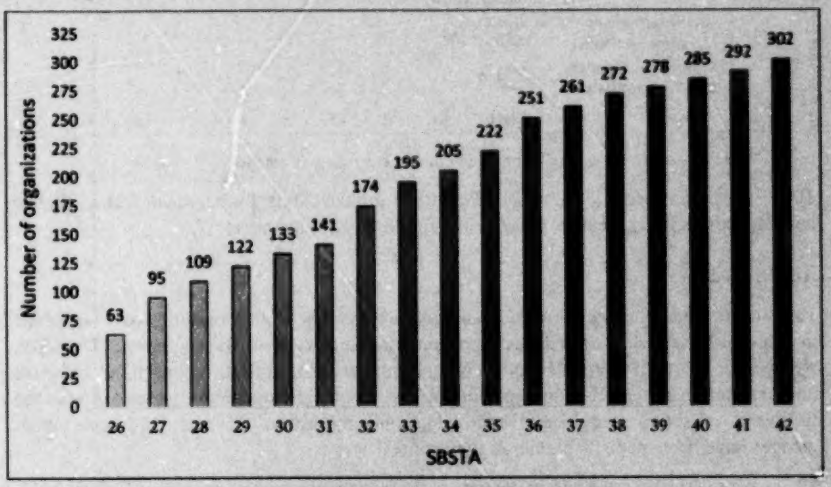
1. Partner organizations

7. Parties to the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional centres and networks, community-based organizations, the private sector, practitioners and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the NWP. The work programme has engaged relevant organizations as partner organizations, which are committed to aligning their activities with the objectives of the NWP and to carrying out initiatives, including through action pledges and collaborative actions, where

appropriate, in order to contribute to enhanced provision and application of information and knowledge on climate risk assessment, and adaptation planning and implementation.

8. As figure 2 illustrates, the number of NWP partner organizations now stands at 302. During the reporting period, the following 10 organizations/entities became NWP partners: Rare; International Centre for Tropical Agriculture through the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security; The Water Network; Albertine Rift Conservation Society; British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Media Action; adelphi; the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute; Climate Action Network South Asia; Bible Hill Youth Club; and FUNDECOR.

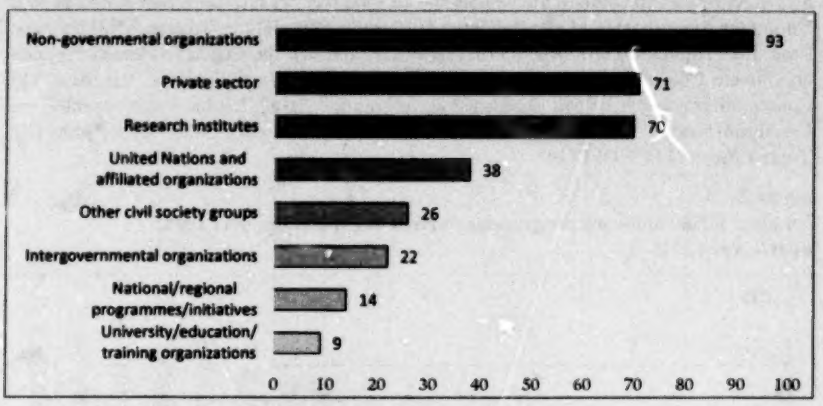
Figure 2
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time, as at 7 April 2015



Abbreviation: SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

9. NWP partner organizations represent a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge, and play an important role in the implementation of activities under the work programme. The NWP has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions and has strengthened its capacity to enhance the provision and dissemination of information on, and knowledge of, adaptation. Figure 3 provides an overview of the NWP partner organizations by category as at 7 April 2015.

Figure 3
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category, as at 7 April 2015[a]



[a] A partner organization may be profiled under more than one category.

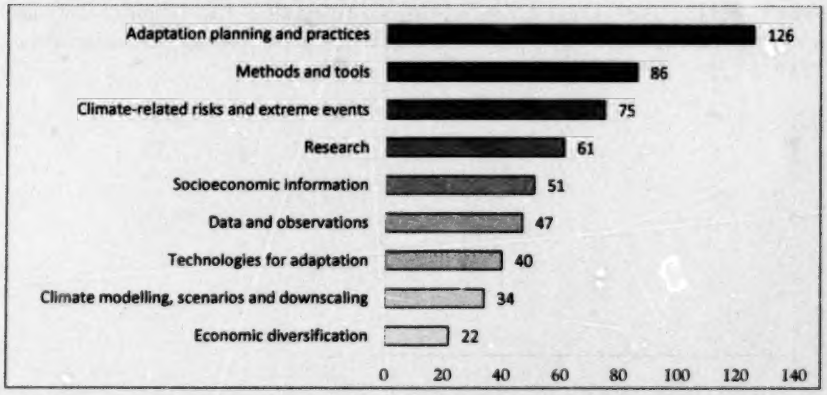
10. A further breakdown of NWP partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, activities and sector is presented in figures 5–8, in the annex.

2. Action pledges

11. Action pledges are targeted adaptation actions that partner organizations undertake in response to knowledge needs and gaps identified under the work programme. The COP, by decision 17/CP.19, encouraged NWP partner organizations to support the effective implementation of the NWP by reporting on the actions and outcomes associated with the fulfilment of action pledges and addressing calls for action. To date, 184 such action pledges have been made by partner organizations.

12. An overview of the action pledges made by partner organizations as at 7 April 2015, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in figure 4.

Figure 4
Number of action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by work area, as at 7 April 2015[a]



[a] Some action pledges may be associated with more than one work area.

B. Collaboration under the Nairobi work programme

1. Case studies on good practices and lessons learned for adaptation planning processes

13. In accordance with the SBSTA 40 mandate,[9] the secretariat invited Parties and NWP partner organizations to contribute case studies on good practices and lessons learned on ecosystems, water resources, health, human settlements, and on linking national and local adaptation planning. In total, the secretariat has received 158 such case studies.

14. A document, highlighting the good practices and lessons learned through these case studies, will be developed, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and with inputs from Parties and partner organizations for consideration by SBSTA 43. In addition, all case studies, as contributed by Parties and partner organizations, will be made available online on the NWP web page on the UNFCCC website.

2. Engagement of regional centres and networks

15. In line with SBSTA 40 conclusions,[10] the secretariat has been engaging regional centres and networks with a view to them undertaking regional activities in 2015 which focus on sharing and disseminating knowledge on good practices and lessons learned on ecosystems, water resources, health, human settlements, and on linking national and local adaptation planning. As at 7 April 2015, 25 regional centres and networks and 5 United Nations organizations/intergovernmental organizations (which will coordinate collaboration on behalf of their regional offices) have confirmed that they will undertake, and share the results and outcomes of, relevant regional activities through the NWP. The outcomes of the regional activities will be reported to SBSTA 44. This mandate has provided a unique opportunity for the secretariat to identify, engage and develop partnerships with regional centres and networks in order to leverage their critical role in providing the knowledge support needed for enhancing adaptation at the regional level.

C. Development and dissemination of information and knowledge, and sharing and learning from adaptation experiences

1. The eighth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

16. Under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and in collaboration with Parties and relevant NWP partner organizations, the eighth NWP Focal Point Forum was convened during SBSTA 41 and was attended by over 70 representatives of Parties and NWP partner organizations.

17. The Forum consisted of two segments. The first segment focused on sharing good practices, lessons learned, and key challenges on adaptation planning and actions, as presented in the submissions from Parties and NWP partner organizations, in four areas: ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, and in linking national and local adaptation planning. Facilitated by representatives of NWP partner organization BBC Media Action, the second segment focused on how adaptation knowledge gaps can be prioritized and responded to through effective communication. Divided into four groups, participants discussed a range of region-specific scenarios of adaptation challenges to understand how communication can support adaptation in communities where people have

[9] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 24.
[10] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraphs 25 and 26.

different needs, and exchanged views and experiences on possible solutions to these challenges.[11]

2. Database of action pledges and partner organizations

18. The online database of partner organizations and action pledges facilitates effective access to information by adaptation stakeholders, including Parties and NWP partner organizations, and the management of that information by NWP partner organizations.[12] The database is continuously updated with information on new partner organizations and information submitted by partner organizations, including action pledges and associated updates.

3. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

19. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular NWP newsletter disseminated to Parties and NWP partner organizations, was published and made available in March 2015.[13] The NWP eUpdate highlights activities carried out under the NWP, including those undertaken by Parties, partner organizations, and regional centres and networks.

III. Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention

20. In addition to the ongoing collaborative work with the AC and the LEG on developing case studies on good practices and lessons learned on ecosystems, water resources, health, human settlements, and on linking national and local adaptation planning as referred to in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, SBSTA 41 also provided further guidance in response to the recommendation of the AC, which would require further collaboration between the NWP and the AC and the LEG, and would therefore strengthen the linkages with these bodies.

21. SBSTA 41 concluded that the following activities should be undertaken by the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and in collaboration with relevant NWP partner organizations:[14]

(a) Support the expert meeting of the AC on promoting livelihoods and economic diversification in order to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions during the third quarter of 2015, building on the relevant work undertaken under the NWP on this matter;

(b) Disseminate existing and future relevant knowledge products produced by the AC in order to inform adaptation planning and actions at all levels.

22. In relation to the joint meeting on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA 41 agreed on the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat under the guidance of

[11] Further information, including the summary note of the eighth NWP Focal Point Forum is available at <http://unfccc.int/8789>.

[12] Available at <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

[13] Available at <http://unfccc.int/7565>.

[14] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 16.

the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with the AC and the LEG, and with contributions from relevant NWP partner organizations (see figure 1).[15]

IV. Next steps

23. In accordance with relevant mandates as summarized in figure 1, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with relevant entities, including the AC and the LEG, Parties to the Convention, NWP partner organizations, and regional centres and networks, the secretariat is implementing the activities referred to in paragraphs 13–15 above.

24. With regards to the implementation of the LAKI, the secretariat will continue its collaboration with UNEP and relevant partners and stakeholders in replicating the LAKI in other subregions in 2015 in response to the conclusions of SBSTA 41.

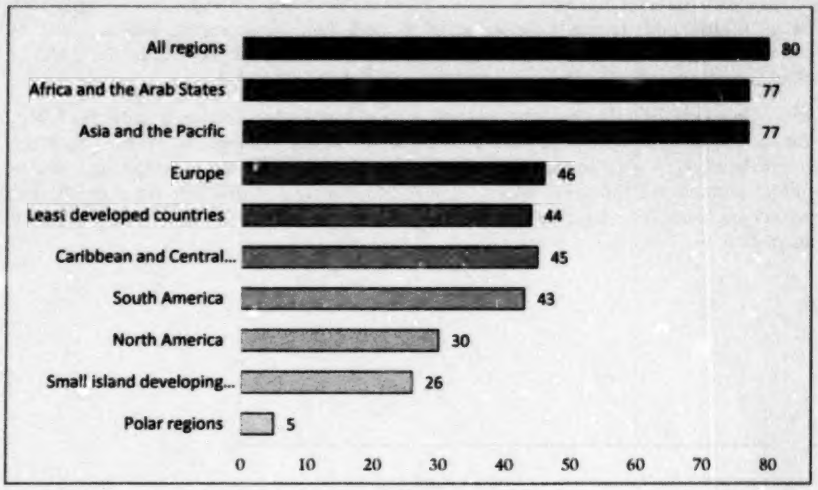
25. In its efforts to improve the dissemination of knowledge developed under the NWP, the secretariat will work to provide a user-friendly online platform in order to facilitate comprehensive as well as targeted queries regarding information on adaptation, and to further promote the outcomes under the NWP, including contributions made by Parties, partner organizations, regional centres and networks in addressing knowledge needs on adaptation.

[15] FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 18(a–c).

Annex

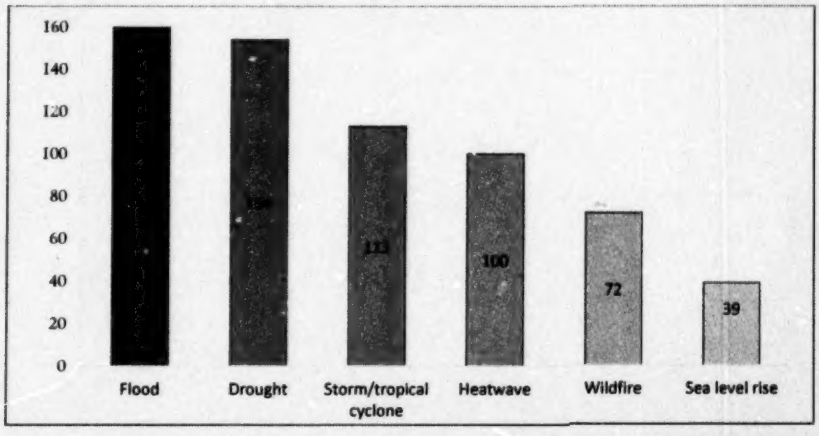
Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector

Figure 5
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, as at 7 April 2015[a]



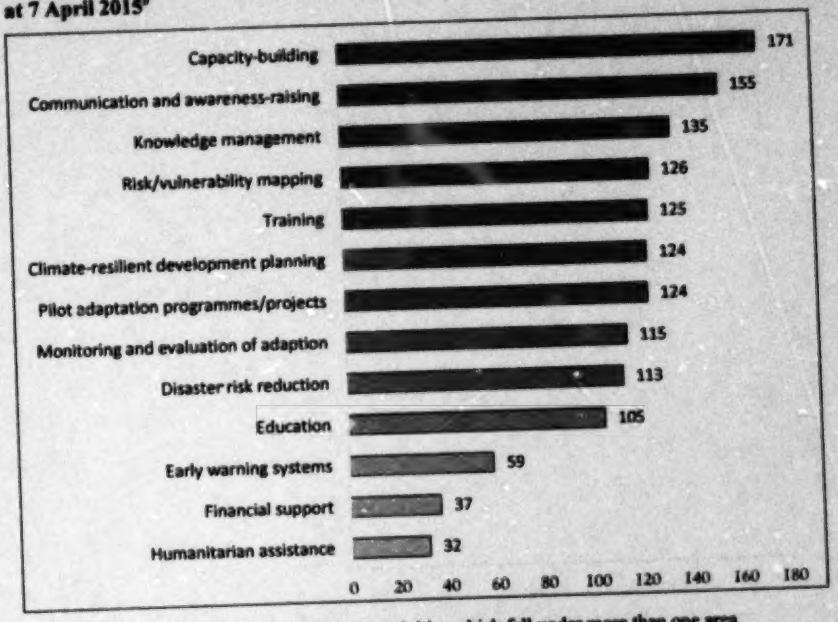
[a] A partner organization may operate in more than one region.

Figure 6
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard, as at 7 April 2015[a]



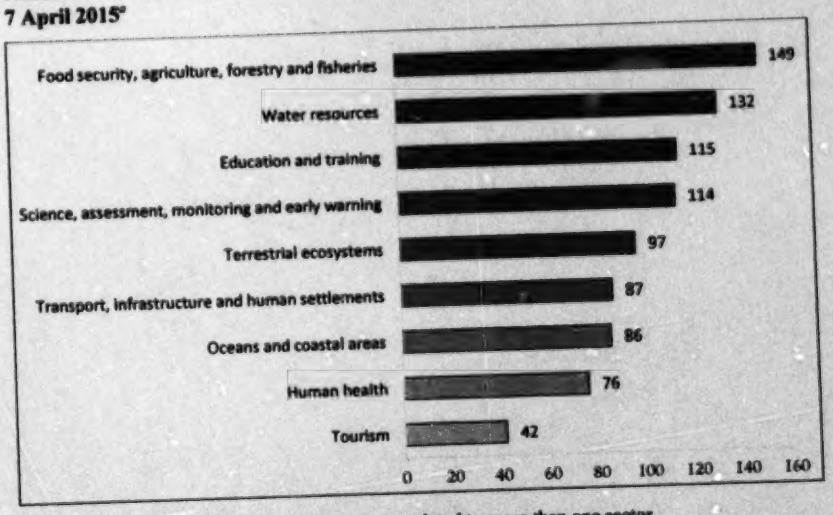
[a] A partner organization may address more than one hazard.

Figure 7
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by scope of activities, as at 7 April 2015[a]



[a] A partner organization may undertake activities which fall under more than one area.

Figure 8
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector, as at 7 April 2015[a]


Food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries 149
Water resources 132
Education and training 115
Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning 114
Terrestrial ecosystems 97
Transport, infrastructure and human settlements 87
Oceans and coastal areas 86
Human health 76
Tourism 42
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160

[a] A partner organization may address issues related to more than one sector.